What is claimed is:

1. A method for handling coupons, comprising:

redeeming at a first location a plurality of input coupons including at least first and second input coupons during a first time interval using a main computer system including

5   a first coupon input device;

transporting to a second location a plurality of verifying coupons to an auxiliary computer system including an auxiliary coupon input device, said verifying coupons being the same as said input coupons when said redeeming step is properly conducted, said transporting step being conducted within five days of said redeeming step;

10   making a determination related to whether said redeeming step was properly conducted using said auxiliary computer system and said plurality of verifying coupons; and

reimbursing for at least some of said plurality of input coupons, said reimbursing step being conducted within five days of said making step.

2. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said main computer system is located at a retailer facility and said auxiliary computer system is also located at said retailer facility.

3. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said auxiliary computer system includes a secure lock box and said transporting step includes carrying said plurality of verifying coupons from a first checkout station located at a first retailer facility to said auxiliary computer system at predetermined intervals, wherein

5   said plurality of verifying coupons are placed in said secure lock box.

4.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said reimbursing step includes reimbursing an acceptor of said plurality of input coupons.

5.   A method, as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

said acceptor includes a retailer having a retailer facility and said reimbursing step includes providing money to the retailer to compensate the retailer related to said at least some of said plurality of input coupons before said at least some of said plurality of coupons are transferred from the retailer facility.

6.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said main computer system and said auxiliary computer system are located at a retailer facility having at least a first check-out station, said transporting step includes manually carrying said plurality of verifying coupons from adjacent said first check-out station to an area in said retailer facility having said auxiliary computer system, and said reimbursing step includes providing a money payment to the retailer related to said at least some of said plurality of input coupons.

7.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said making a determination step includes determining whether a match exists between said plurality of input coupons and said plurality of verifying coupons, wherein said plurality of verifying coupons are input to said auxiliary coupon input device during said making a determination step and also includes determining whether a match exists between said plurality of verifying coupons and a number of products obtained when said plurality of input coupons were redeemed.

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8.   A method, as claimed in Claim 7, wherein:

when said determining step determines that a match does not exist between each of said verifying coupons and said number of products, ascertaining whether reimbursement is to be provided for each of said verifying coupon that is non-matched.

9.   A method, as claimed in Claim 8, wherein:

said ascertaining step includes inquiring of a retailer involved with said redeeming step whether to reimburse and making a decision whether or not to reimburse the retailer.

10.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said making a determination step includes determining whether a match exists related to said plurality of input coupons using information from said main computer system related to additional coupons that were redeemed and which are different from said plurality of input coupons, said additional coupons being redeemed after said first time interval.

11.   A method, as claimed in Claim 10, further including:

maintaining in storage memory said information related to said additional coupons and using said information related to said additional coupons when utilizing a second plurality of input coupons.

12.   A method, as claimed in Claim 7, further including:

generating first information related to a match between said plurality of input coupons and said plurality of verifying coupons and generating second information related to a non-match between said plurality of input coupons and said plurality of verifying coupons.

13.   A method, as claimed in Claim 8, further including:

generating third information related to reimbursing for at least one of said verifying coupons for which there is no match with said plurality of input coupons.

14. A method, as claimed in Claim 8, further including:

generating fourth information related to at least one of said verifying coupons for which there was no match with said plurality of input coupons and for which no reimbursement was made.

15. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further including:

storing information related to identities of said plurality of input coupons by name of retailer that accepted said plurality of input coupons and by name of a manufacturer associated with each of said plurality of input coupons.

16. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further including:

after said reimbursing step, sending said at least some of said plurality of input coupons to a manufacturing agent or a manufacturer and without sending them to a clearinghouse involved with clearing coupons.

17. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said making a determination step is conducted after a number of product transactions involving a number of different customers and in which said plurality of input coupons are provided by said number of different customers.

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18.   A system involved with handling coupons, comprising:

a main computer subsystem including a coupon input device located at a first location that provides input coupon information from a first plurality of input coupons, said input coupon information including identification information related to identifying said first

5   plurality of input coupons and product information related to products purchased; and

an auxiliary computer subsystem that receives said input coupon information from said main computer subsystem, said auxiliary computer subsystem including an auxiliary coupon input device located at a second location and at least a first processor, said auxiliary coupon input device receiving a first plurality of verifying coupons related to determining

10   whether correspondence exists with said first plurality of input coupons, said first processor used in determining whether a match exists between said first plurality of input coupons and said first plurality of verifying coupons, said auxiliary coupon input device inputting coupon information to said auxiliary computer subsystem during a time different from said auxiliary computer subsystem receiving said input coupon information from said main computer

15   subsystem.

19.   A system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein:

said auxiliary computer subsystem is in communication with said main computer subsystem and receives said input coupon information from said main computer subsystem, said auxiliary computer subsystem also receiving additional coupon information related to

5   additional coupons different from said first plurality of input coupons, said first processor taking into account said additional coupon information when determining whether a match exists between said first plurality of input coupons and said first plurality of verifying coupons.

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20.   A system, as claimed in Claim 19, wherein:

said additional coupon information is used by said first processor when determining whether a match exists between a second plurality of input coupons and a second plurality of verifying coupons.

21.   A system, as claimed in Claim 18, wherein:

said auxiliary computer subsystem includes storage memory for storing first information related to a match between at least a first input coupon of said first plurality of input coupons and a first verifying coupon of said first plurality of verifying coupons and for storing second information related to a non-match involving at least one of a second input coupon of said first plurality of input coupons and a second verifying coupon of said first plurality of verifying coupons.

22.   A method, as claimed in Claim 21, wherein:

said storage memory stores third information related to whether a reimbursement was made for said second verifying coupon of said first plurality of verifying coupons.

23.   A system, as claimed in Claim 18, wherein:

said auxiliary computer subsystem includes check printing hardware that provides a check used to reimburse the retailer having said main computer subsystem for at least some of said first plurality of input coupons.

24. A method involving the handling of coupons, comprising:

providing a main computer subsystem at a facility of a retailer and an auxiliary computer subsystem in communication with said main computer subsystem, said main computer subsystem including at least a first coupon input device and said auxiliary computer subsystem including at least an auxiliary coupon input device;

inputting during a first time interval a first plurality of input coupons for redemption using said first coupon input device, each of said first plurality of input coupons including input coupon information;

communicating said input coupon information related to at least said first plurality of input coupons to said auxiliary computer subsystem using said main computer subsystem;

transporting a first plurality of verifying coupons to said auxiliary computer subsystem, said first plurality of verifying coupons to be used in determining whether said first plurality of verifying coupons correspond to said first plurality of input coupons in kind and number;

reading said first plurality of verifying coupons using said auxiliary coupon input device;

determining whether there is correspondence between each of said first plurality of verifying coupons and at least one of said first plurality of input coupons using said input coupon information; and

reimbursing the retailer for at least some of said first plurality of input coupons.

25. A method, as claimed in Claim 24, further including:

withholding reimbursement to the retailer for at least one of said first plurality of input coupons when said determining steps determines that there is no correspondence

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between said at least one input coupon of said first plurality of input coupons and said first

5   plurality of verifying coupons.

26.   A method, as claimed in Claim 24, wherein: ·

said communicating step includes communicating additional coupon information

related to additional coupons different from said first plurality of input coupons before

completing said determining step and in which said determining step does not rely on said

5   additional coupon information when determining whether each of said first plurality of

verifying coupons corresponds to at least one of said first plurality of input coupons.

27.   A method, as claimed in Claim 24, wherein:

said auxiliary computer subsystem is located at the facility of the retailer and said

reimbursing step includes printing a check made out to the retailer or providing an electronic

fund transfer to the retailer within five days of conducting said inputting step.

28.   A method, as claimed in Claim 24, wherein:

shipping said first plurality of input coupons to at least one agent of manufacturers

or a manufacturer associated with said first plurality of input coupons under the

responsibility of a party independent of the retailer and without clearing said first plurality

5   of input coupons by a coupon clearinghouse.

29.   A method, as claimed in Claim 24, wherein:

when said determining step determines that no correspondence exists involving said

products purchased during said time interval and said first plurality of verifying coupons,

ascertaining whether reimbursement is to be provided to the retailer.

30.   A method, as claimed in Claim 24, wherein:

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said reimbursing step includes transferring ownership rights to a third party independent of the retailer before said at least some of said plurality input coupons are removed from the retailer facility.

31.   A method, as claimed in Claim 24, further including:

submitting an invoice for payment, to at least one manufacturer or a manufacturer's agent associated with said at least some of said first plurality of input coupons, by a third party who is independent of the retailer and after the third party has received ownership

5   rights for said at least some of said first plurality of input coupons.